



CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE BULLETIN 160-98

Executive Summary

November 1998

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Foreword

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In 1957, the Department published Bulletin 3, the *California Water Plan*. Bulletin 3 was followed by the Bulletin 160 series, published six times between 1966 and 1993, updating the *California Water Plan*. A 1991 amendment to the California Water Code directed the Department to update the plan every five years. Bulletin 160-98 is the latest in the series. The Bulletin 160 series assesses California's water needs and evaluates water supplies, to quantify the gap between future water demands and water supplies. The series presents a statewide overview of current water management activities and provides water managers with a framework for making decisions.

In response to public comments on the last update, Bulletin 160-93, this 1998 update evaluates water management options that could improve California's water supply reliability. Water management options being planned by local agencies form the building blocks for evaluations performed for each of the State's ten major hydrologic regions. Local options are integrated into a statewide overview that illustrates potential progress in reducing the State's expected future water shortages.

When the previous water plan update was released, California was just emerging from a six-year drought. This update follows the largest and most extensive flood disaster in California's history, the January 1997 floods. These two hydrologic events fittingly illustrate the complexity of water management in the State.

The Department appreciates the assistance provided by the Bulletin 160-98 public advisory committee, which met with the Department over a three-year period as the Bulletin was being prepared. The Department also appreciates the assistance provided by the many local water agencies who furnished information about their planned water management activities.

David N. Kennedy
Director

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